

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action of November 23, 2005. Claims 7-14, 20-24, 27-29 and 30-34 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 3-6, 15-19, 25 and 26 having been cancelled herein and claim 2 having been previously cancelled.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 7, 8, and 27 are allowable.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 9-14, 20-24 and 30-34, but indicates that these claims will be allowable if rewritten so as not to be dependent upon rejected claims. In response, Applicant has amended claims 9, 20 and 30 to be in independent form. Claims 10-14, 21-24 and 31-34 remain unchanged as they are dependent from claims 9, 20 and 30 respectively. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9-14, 20-24 and 30-34 are allowable.

Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,197,508 to Gottling in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,121,610 to Harms. The Examiner indicates that Gottling discloses all of the elements of claims 28 and 29 but does not disclose a separable electrical coupling between the two portions of the housing. The Examiner further indicates that Harms discloses a similar valve including a separable electrical coupling 188 between the two portions of the valve for ease of assembly and disassembly of the valve. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to employ a separable electrical coupling between the two portions of the Gottling valve in view of Harms for ease of assembly and disassembly of the valve.

Harms discloses an electrical connector unit 188 for a remote control operating device 146. The electrical connector unit 188 connects a cable to the remote control operating device 146. With the Harms device, an operation is able to control the flow of hydraulic fluid through the system at a location remote from the valve. Thus, the cable extends from the remote location to the valve. Gottling does not suggest in any way separability of the housing.

Claim 28 has been amended to call for the first and second portions to be alternately rigidly secured together and separable relative to each other. This “on-board” mounting of the electronic controller and associated electronics reduces wiring and eliminates solenoid wiring. The claimed invention also reduces the possibility of spool position feed back degradation by reducing distance traveled to the electronic controller. The claimed structure provides other advantages that would not be present in the hypothetical device resulting from the combination of Gottling and Harms. For example, the on-board mounting of the claimed invention precludes the need for manual pot adjustments and manual jumper reconfigurations. Further, use of the on-board electronic controller and associated electronics enables self-teaching proportional-integral-derivative (PID) control of the proportional directional control valve. Accordingly, the combination of Gottling and Harms does not provide the advantages of the “on-board” mounting of the claimed invention, and, therefore, amended claim 28 and dependent claim 29 are patentable over the cited art.

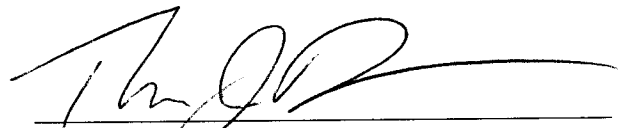
Previously-rejected claims 1, 3-6, 15-19, 25 and 26 are cancelled herein.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition to be passed to allowance. If there are any issues remaining to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone so that such issues can be discussed and properly resolved. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Any fees due may be charged to the Barnes & Thornburg LLP deposit account 12-0913 with reference to docket number 35624-94959.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Th. J. Donovan', written over a horizontal line.

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